

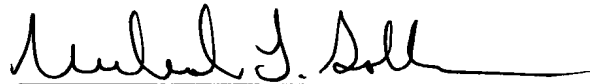
REMARKS

Applicants have cancelled claims 1-13 and added new claims 14-48. Support for the new claims can be found throughout the specification. For example, the present application teaches: that the polymer applying apparatus is moving or stationary (page 6, lines 32-34); that the polymer applying apparatus has at least two polymer dispensing outlets (page 6, lines 26-28) in chambers with a front wall and a back wall and a separating wall between the front wall and the back wall defining the volumes of the chambers (page 6, lines 29-31) and where the back wall is held above the coating surface so as to form a back wall gap (page 7, lines 3-6); that the process may rely on gravity driven flow or that the chambers can be pressurized or solutions can be pumped (page 7, lines 9-13); that the thickness of each layer can also be controlled by gap distance, solution viscosity, and web speed (page 7, lines 2-3); that the chambers can be heated or cooled (page 7, lines 6-8); using PVDF, nylon, or polyethersulphone (page 9, lines 20-21); and drying the membranes (page 11, lines 31-33). Accordingly, no new matter has been added and entry of the new claims is respectfully requested.

Many of these claims support the declaration of interference with claims issued in U.S. Patent No. 6,736,971 to Sale et al. See 35 U.S.C. § 135(b)(1).

In view of all the foregoing, it is submitted that this case is in condition for allowance and such allowance is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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